

NEW YEAR'S IN THE SOUTH & FIFTY YEARS AGO

By WILLIAM ROSSER COBBE.

South 50 years ago presented scenes that would be strange indeed if enacted in this gen-

was known only as "hiring day." At every county seat in every slave state legrees to gather, some as others as actors in the events of the day By far the greater number collected prompted solely by idle curiosity.

Upon every corner and at every point available in the courthouse square sat negro women with great baskets of "ap-ple jacks" (a sort of fried apple pie), gingerbread and persimmon beer which they

During the day men engaged in tests of agility and strength, which ended not in-



Aunty Selling Apple-Jacks.

frequently in a free for all fight in which fists only were used and after which no arrests were made. In those New Year days the "rumshops," as they were called, did a land office business. Whisky was plentiful and chesp, and the prejudice against drunkenness was by no means so

general then as now.

The focal point of interest, however, was the hiring out of negroes for the en-suing year. Now and then negroes were offered for public sale, but that practice was not so common then as in the earlier

part of the century.

Planters neither hired out their slaves, nor did they employ those of other peo-ple. But those belonging to minor chil-dren and widows, as well as many who were "chattein" of residents of the torms and villages were commonly "hired out" especially if they had been taught trades. or were good cooks or house servants.

Many town residents possessed slaves beyoud their home needs, and these were
"hired out" to others who might require

their services.
The contract lasted for the calendar

year only. It must be renewed annually, if desired by the contracting parties.

Much misconception obtains as to the disagreeableness and ahame of this practice. Masters had a direct pecuniary interest in their slaves, and it was to their integest to see to it that these secured humans complexes. integes to see to it that these secured inmano employers. As far as it was possible, each alaye was permitted to choose he person for whom he would work, tome there were who remained with the same employers year by year for many

Those that were good servants had no difficulty in choosing desirable employers.

Very frequently the master left this matter entirely is the hands of the slave.

After all, though, there were those who were unknown and many more who were practically worthless, and these were unry 1, 1902, from his old diary and pasted "lired out" at auction to the highest bid- it in under 1905."—Chicago Post.

B.M. BROWN.

der. This, also, was commonly the prac-tice as to "cornfield niggers" and un-skilled laborers generally, of both sexes. There were pathetic scenes now and then when negroes were sold at public auc-

tion on New Year's day. Very rarely it chanced that at such times members of the same family were sold to masters widely separated.

It should appeal to the common sense of any man that slaves being valuable holdings, their owners would neither treat them cruelly nor permit them to be abused formly are kind to them, and horses are

In this Southern New Year's day, too, men met to settle long due debts, to pay notes and to rent farm lands. Taken altogether, it was a busy, busy day, full mer himself driving. Not more than son is made the defendant in a man-

tions enjoyed their annual two weeks' erence was made by the rector, Dr. attorney in behalf of the board of vacation and these crowded the villages cross, to the president. At the consupervisors of the county to compel to buy all manner of gimeracks-cheap jewelry, ribbons and laces, and, having sweet tooth, cheap candies as well. Any well-ordered slave could make "overtime" money, and it was a very sorry one, in-deed, who had not a few dollars at the New Year, to throw away in folly upon a

wife or a sweetheart.

The "white trash" gathered then solely with a view to looking on and to picking up what they could. As they were despised by both the well-to-do whites and he negroes of all degrees, they usually kept to themselves. They neither hired nor were hired, but in some manner contrived to secure their full share of

Like the old "general muster" day of the ante-bellum days, the 'afo' de wah' New Year has passed away with all its scenes and shiftings, yet the memory of it remains with the older residents as reninder that one day at least, and that the initial one, of the Southland, was one of potential energy and signally characterisic in its incidents of the age and times.

Had the Same Effect. "I hear that Jack's flancee has made im give a New Year's promise to stop

"That so? Well, mine has not said a rord about giving up the weed, but our ngagement has just the same effect."
"How so?"

"Every time I call all the cigars in my vest pocket manage to get crushed, and, of course, I don't smoke them!"—Ralti-more Herald.

Plans for the New Year. Now man resolves to strive anew And in the coming year win more Of that which misers fasten to Than he has ever gained before.

His wife applauds him and site down Considering how she will show A few new didees to the town If hubby gets his schemes to go. —Chicago Record-Herald.

TRUE TO HIS RESOLUTION.



The Little Fellow Strike me if wants ter. I've resoluted never ter me hand in anger agin' anoder agin'.

## SEVERE WESTERN BLIZZARD.

Smilar Mowland

Drifts Six to Ten Feet Deep Impeding Movements of Trains,

Denver, Col., Dec. 22.-The blizzard that raged on Friday and Saturday in eastern Colorado and Wyoming and western Kansas and Nebraska was the most serious in years to the railroads as far as the interruption of traffic is concerned. All trains on the Union Pacific and Burlington ronds were delayed at least twentyfour hours, and some trains due Sat urday morning only reached Denver Sunday night. This is true of trains over the Kansas Pacific branch of the Union Pacific. Along this line snow drifts from six to ten feet deep made the movement of trains impossible until the tracks would be cleared. Perhaps the storm was most severe on the Denver & Alliance branch of the Burlington. This line runs to the Black Hills, and trains which left Denver on Friday were only released from their wedged positions in the drift Sunday. One train, which was completely hidden from sight by the snow, was relieved by snow plows from Alliance, Neb. A supply train was run from Mercer, Neb., with fuel and provisions to provide for the needs of the imprisoned passengers. It required desperate work to reach the stalled train through the blinding storm and almost impenetrable drifts. The attention of the railroads Sunday was directed to getting the trains going on schedule time again, and it is expected usual conditions on the Burlington and Union Pacific will oon prevail.

## PRESIDENT IN VIRGINIA.

The Family Attends Church in the Morning and Goes Horseback Riding in the Afternoon.

Rapidan, Va., Dec. 22.-In a driving rain the president, Mrs. Roosevelt and four of her children, accompanied by their host, Mr. Joseph W. Wilmer, went horseback riding Sunday morning. The party left the Wilmer mansion shortly after three o'clock in the afternoon and did not return until five o'clock. It has rained here hard and incessantly since an early hour Saturday night. Sunday morning the presdent and his family and Mr. Wilmer drove to the picturesque little Episcopa church in Rapidan to attend divine service. The trip was made in a big carriage capable of seating comfortably ten persons. It was drawn by four horses, Mr. Wilof its comedies as well as its dramas, and, a score of worshipers braved the a score of workings, tragedies,
At such times the slaves of the plantathe pastor and the few members of hunt will be abandoned.

THE HUMBERTS ARRESTED.

Notorious Paristan Swindlers Captured in Madrid After a Successful Career of Twenty Years.

Madrid, Dec. 22.-Mme. Humbert, duped Paris bankers out of \$12,000,000 and whose bold scheme defied detection for more than twenty years, is a prisoner in the hands of the Madrid cided to go down to Copiah to look

Mme. Humbert, her husband, Eva Humbert, and the three d'Aurignaes, Romain, Emilie and Marie, were arrested here Saturday. When arrested, one of the family

handed a package containing \$48,000 to some people who lived in the same house with them. This package has been sent to the French consulate.

The Humberts are being well treated in prison. They are permitted to have their meals sent in from a neighboring restaurant. They all occupy separate cells, are carefully watched and are not allowed to receive vis-

MARCONI'S GREAT SUCCESS.

The Inventor Has Sent Wireless Mesanges Between Cape Breton, N. S., and Cornwall, England.

New York, Dec. 22 .- The following dispatch from Marconi, dated Glace Bay, N. S., December 21, has been re-

"I beg to inform you for circulation that I have established wireless telegraph communication between Cape Breton, Canada, and Cornwall, England, with complete success. Inauguratory messages, including one from the governor general of Canada to King Edward VII. have already been transmitted and forwarded to the kings of England and Italy. A message to the London Times has also been transmitted in the presence of its special correspondent, D. Parkin, M. P.

Confirmed by London Times. London, Dec. 22.-The London

Times confirms the receipt of a message by wireless telegraphy from Marconi at Cape Breton, N. S. Death of Elias Hans.

St. Louis, Dec. 21.-Elias Haas, aged 77 years, died, Friday, after an illness of nearly five weeks. Mr. Hoos retired from active commercial pursuits about fifteen years ago, but previous to that time was one of the mo widely-known retail merchants of the

Candidate for Re-Election. Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 21.-Gov. Beckam has issued an address formally announcing his candidacy for the democratic nomination for re-election for a full term of four years.

## Mississippi State News

Applause in Marder Case.

The effect of applause on an audience on a murder verdict was considered recently by the Supreme case which will present one of the Court in the Raines case, from Lee | most unique questions ever presented county, and there was an intimation to any court before. The case is that a case might arise in which such | that of the State against Tom Pula manifestation would warrant a re- pus, convicted of murder in Chickaversal as having had too great an saw county, and his attorneys have influence of the jury. Private John appealed against the judgment of Allen, closing counsel in the case, the lower court, setting up, among had made the closing speech for the other things, that the jury in the prosecution, and as he took his seat case of Pulpus were influenced in he was greeted with an enthusiastic making up their verdict by a camburst of applause from the audience paign speech made by Maj. Vardain the court room, which was man on the day the court was orpromptly checked by the presiding ganized. The bill of exceptions judge. The remarks made by the in setting up this ground for rever-Supreme Court on the subject of the sal of the judgment recites that applause of Mr. Allen's speech were the speech of Maj. Vardaman construed by certain individuals in aroused so much prejudice and race North Mississippi as a legal inhibi- antagonism in the minds of the jution against laughing at John Al- rors summoned for the extra term len's jokes, and the result was that that they did not give the defendconsiderable excitement arose in ant a fair and impartial hearing. Northeast Mississippi over this mis- Pulpus was sentenced to be hanged. taken interpretation of the court's decision, which was in fact based on other grounds. Jourdan Boone, of Corinth, who was in Jackson last Durant last week. A transweek, looked up the decision and portation committee, composed found that it did not affect the right of S. A. Montgomery, John of the people in Lee and neighboring | Brister and E. A. Pugh was appointcounties to smile at Mr. Allen's jests ed to confer with representatives of and he was consequently much re- the express company relative to lowlieved. "We have been laughing at er shipping rates and to enlist the Mr. Allen's jokes for nearly twenty co-operation of the growers of fruit years,' 'said Mr. Boone, "and I doubt and strawberries at Durant, West if even a decision of the Supreme and Goodman in an endeavor to se-

their ancient rights in that respect."

County Superintendent of Education Wilson of Copiah county was sity of unity. in Jackson last week in consultation with the State board of education in regard to the school trouble in his county. Superintendent Wildamus suit brought by the county cotton piece goods, machinery and o'clock she could be seen from shore, attorney in behalf of the board of clothing, to apply to all roads and burning fiercely. clusion of the services Mr. and Mrs. the superintendent to run the public commission has had the matter un-Roosevelt were greeted cordially by schools for six months. According der consideration for some time, the parish present, the introductions to Mr. Wilson, there is not enough and several conferences have been being made by Mr. Wilmer. Owing to money in the school fund to run the had with the railroad people. The the severe rainstorm the wild turkey schools for this length of time, and schedule of rates is as follows: Cothe cannot run them on credit. He ton piece goods, over one line, 40 cannot legally issue a warrant to a cents per 100; two lines, 50 cents; teacher unless there is money in the three lines, 60 cents. Machinery, treasury to the credit of the school over one line, 25 cents; two lines, fund. To do so would make him 36 cents; three lines, 42 cents. This liable on his bond for the amount is in carload lots, the minimum the chief actress in a swindle which of the warrant. State Superintend- carload being 20,000 pounds, Clothent Whitfield went over the matter ing, one line, 65 cents; two lines, with Superintendent Wilson and deinto the case with a view to adjusting the trouble. Superintendent Wilson states that he is more than both legs cut off by a switch enin any manner to pay for the same. two engines from Scranton, Pa. to

Cotton Decision. A decision handed down by the Supreme Court at Jackson is of considerable interest, as it settles the responsibility for the disastrous cotton fire which occurred two winters ago at Vicksburg. The cotton which caught fire was stored um and everything possible was on an open lot contiguous to the line of the Alabama & Vicksburg Railway, and it was alleged that the fire had its origin in the sparks from a passing locomotive. A test case was brought in the Supreme won, appealed by the railroad company, affirmed by the Supreme Court. The same fire involved the loss of over \$25,000 worth of cotton and it is probable other suits will be filed.

Married at Carrollton. Mr. Eugene Neal, cashier of the Peoples' Bank at Carrollton, and Miss Lillian Lanham, of Lebanon, an ax. Blade is a tinner's appren-Ky., gave their many friends quite tice and his stepfather a hard a surprise by taking the train to drinker, who has spent several terms

quietly married. Rotting of Cotton.

Ex-State Treasurer G. W. Carlisle, who has just returned to Jackson from the delts, reports that over the rotting of cotton caused hunting last week. by the rains. All of the late crop cotton is said to be ruined practically by wet weather. The plant- with wrecking the train on the Yaers had counted upon making this zoo and Mississippi Valley road, crop or a large part of it, and the near Blakely, on March 20, was failure, Mr. Carlisle thinks, will affect the average expected.

In the Supreme Court there will be argued in January a criminal

Fruit Growers' Association. The Hoffman Fruit Growers' Association was organized at Court could wean the people from cure lower transportation rates and a reduction on box material. S. A. Montgomery delivered an able and well received address on the neces-

Home Products Bonsted, Home manufactured products were given a boost at Jackson, when the railroad commission established a special schedule of rates on home become effective February 1st. The 73 cents; three lines, 93 cents. Lost Legs and Life.

J. H. Naples, expert tester of the Baldwin Locomotive Works, had willing to run the schools for six gine in the Central yards at Jackson that city for the Gulf & Ship Island railroad. He fired the engines and was examining them preparatory to making run tests down the Gulf & Ship Island road when he was struck by the switch engine. He ter station. was carried to the Jackson Sanitoridone for him. Naples was a thirtysecond degree Mason.

Vicksburg Gets Back Taxes.

City Assessor R. M. Kelly of Vicksburg has been notified by the revenue agent, Wirt Adams, to col-Court by one of the firms in- lect assessments upon the sum of volved, who sued for \$2,500 and about three millions of property made by the recent back tax investigations. This will give the city treasury about \$60,000 for its share. Killed His Stepfather.

Allison E. Blade, a 16-year-old boy, at Natchez last week shot and killed his stepfather, Albert Clement, while the latter was in the act of assaulting the boy's mother with Winona last week, where they were on the county farm. Blade surrendered and is now in jail.

Young Hunter Killed.

Powell Franklin, son of J. E. Franklin, a prominent farmer of the eastern part of Lafavette county, was instantly killed by the accidentthe planters are much discouraged al discharge of his own gun while

Negro Train Wrecker Convicted. Henry Wright, the negro charged lout only five minutes.

ACCIDENT TO OCEAN LINER.

The Deutschland Damaged to Such Extent that Pour Months Will Be Required for Repairs.

Plymouth, England, Dec. 22 .- The Hamburg-American line steamer Deutschland arrived here at a quarter past two Sunday afternoon.

When she was nearing the Scilly islands a cylinder burst and the starboard engine was badly damaged. It will require four months to effect repairs. One engineer was rather badly scalded. The steamer left here at three o'clock for Cherbourg and Ham-

The accident on the Deutschland happened at half past one o'clock Sunday morning. For a time the vessel was in complete darkness and filled with escaping steam. The passengers were greatly alarmed. They rushed from their cabins, anxiously making inquiries as to what had oc-Excellent discipline was maintained; everybody was assured that there was no danger, and the excitement gradually subsided.

With the exception of the engineer, who was enught in the escaping steam, the Deutschland's officers say that no other member of the engine room staff was seriously injured. The repairs will cost several thousand pounds. The steamer came into port using her port engines alone, at a speed of 16 knots.

A VESSEL BURNING AT SEA. Large Ship on Fire Twenty Miles from Boston-Sea Too Rough for

Help to Reach Her. Gloucester, Mass., Dec. 22.-It is believed that a large vessel, either a tank steamer with oil or a sailing craft loaded with some highly-inflammable material, was burned Sunday night in Massachusetts bay, about twenty miles outside of Boston harbor. A life-saving crew from West Gloucester made a strong effort to reach ber, but a stiff southeast gale drove them back when they were still ten miles away from the burning ship. About 10:30 o'clock Sunday night two Boston fishermen came into port and reported that they passed within two miles of the burning vessel, but did not attempt to ascertain her identity. The crew of one of them, which passed to the leeward, reported smelling burning oil and stated that the ressel was a very large one. These two fishermen passed the burning ves sel about half past eight, but at 10:30

About 10:30 o'clock Sunday night the Boston schooners Gertrude and Emma W. Brown came in, both having passed within a short distance of burning vessel, but neither was able to give her name or tell of the fate of the crew.

Both agreed that the vessel was a large one and that she looked like a tank steamer.

CHRISTMAS MAIL BURNED. Several Hundred Sacks of Mail for the West Burned in a Car on

the New York Central.

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 22 .- Official report of the burning of a carload of Christmas mail en route for the west was made here at 3:45 o'clock Sunday afternoon by the crew of mail clerks arriving here from New York on the fast mail No. 3 on the New York Central, which left New York at 8:45 a. m. Only twenty or thirty out of seven or eight hundred pouches were months if the funds can be provided last week and died. Naples brought saved, the burned mail being for Chicago and points further west. Some of the main was destined for the Philippine and Fiji islands. The mail sacks were in a storage car, which carried no clerks. The crew was on the car behind, and discovered the

> TRAGEDY NEAR LIBERTY, MO. Joseph Foley Shoots and Kills Mrs. Wilson and Then Blows Ris Own Hend Off.

fire between Peekskill and Highland.

The car was left burning at the lat-

Liberty, Mo., Dec. 23 .- Joseph Foley, Sunday, shot and killed Mrs. James B. Wilson, and then with a shotgun Eterally blew off his own head, at the Wilson farm, near here. Foley was formerly employed by the Wilsons, and while drunk he went there Sunday to borrow a gun. He handled the gun so recklessly that Mrs. Wilson remonstrated with him, when he shot and killed her without provocation. He then killed himself. Foley was 24 years old, was a cousin of J. S. Foley, who three years ago was charged with killing his mother and sister, Mrs. Wilson was 35 years old.

Hanged at New Roads, La.

Newroads, La., Dec. 21.-Willis Williams, colored, burglar and murderer, was hanged here, Friday, in the presence of at least a thousand people. The crime for which Williams was executed was the murder of young Albert Herbert, at Fordach stu-

Each Gave a Penny a Year. Hiawatha, Kas., Dec. 21.- Squire Herbert celebrated his eightieth birthday at Thursday, and all his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were present. Each gave the aged man 80 pennies. The coins filled a coal scuttle.

More Work for Bowen, London, Dec. 21 .- A special dispatch from Brussels says the Dutch minister to Venezuela, Dr. Van Leyden, had been recalled and that Dutch interests in Venezuela had been committed to United States Minister Bowen,

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